



MINUTES
COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
City Hall, 5th Floor Large Conference Room
3900 Main Street
Riverside, CA 92522
July 9, 2007 at 6:00pm
ADA Coordinator - (951) 826-5427
TDD (951) 826-5439

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Commission on Disabilities is to promote greater awareness of, respect for, and the total participation of individuals with disabilities into all aspects of life.

1. **Call to Order:** 6:10 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Donald Hawecker
3. **Roll Call:** Chairperson Paul Van Doren, Vice-Chair Gigi Welch, James Stream, Gene Brosious, Suzanne Puffer, Linda Garcia, Debbie Keller, Lesley Robinson, Donald Hawecker.

Terry Gregerson has resigned from the COD due to his relocation away from the City of Riverside.

ABSENT: Susanne Puffer (excused), Gigi Welch (excused) and James Stream. James Stream arrived after roll call (approximately 6:25 pm).

Also present were General Services Director Kris Martinez, Deputy City Attorney Neil Okazaki, ADA Coordinator Monique Gordon, Resident John Lonberg, Donna Kirchoff, Inland Regional Center and Ted O'Connor – Sign Language Interpreter.

4. **Minutes:** Minutes for the meeting of June 11, 2007

M/S Robinson/Keller and unanimous to approve the minutes from June 11, 2007 as presented.

AYES – 6 (Van Doren, Brosious, Garcia, Keller, Robinson, Hawecker), NOES – 0, ABSENT – 3 (Puffer, Welch, Stream), ABSTAIN – 0.

5. Introductions and Public Comment

This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on any subject matter that is within the Commission's jurisdiction.

6. Old Business

- A. No-Show Policy - City of Riverside Special Transportation Section – discussion concerning items the COD would like addressed.

Chairperson Van Doren suggested that someone outside of Special Transportation be a member of the appeals process for the No Show Policy. He noted that he would like a more user friendly version of the policy in place than having penalties assessed on riders.

The COD discussed that verbal explanations for no-shows are being accepted and that there should be a policy against abusers.

Concerning the no-show penalty assessment, Mr. Lonberg stated that the law requires that a ride be provided the next day after a request. Deputy City Attorney Okazaki advised that currently, riders are not being penalized for missing rides for reasons out of their control, such as illness or lengthy medical appointments.

In response to Chairperson Van Doren's request that Byron Mayhan, Transit Supervisor, be invited back to discuss the COD involvement in the appeals process, Deputy City Attorney Okazaki noted that to date, he was not aware of any rides having been suspended.

In response to comments from Mr. Lonberg concerning:

- a. Federal mandates which require trip denials to be recorded and documented, and that late pick ups or instances where transportation does not show are not recorded ,and
- b. if a late ride is accepted, it is no longer considered late when it should actually be recorded as a trip denial,

Chairperson Van Doren responded that the COD wants to help Special Transportation do a good job and the COD should try to give Special Transportation an objective view so that the service goes smoothly and people get rides.

Commissioners Robinson and Hawecker noted that they had never been denied a ride. Commissioner Keller noted that she often uses Special Transportation in caring for a family member and advised that it was a lovely service that would not leave you without a ride if an appointment took longer than expected – Special Transportation would return for the rider.

The COD requested that Transit Supervisor Byron Mayhan return to discuss the current appeal process of the Special Transportation No Show Policy.

7. New Business

A. **Report** from Paul Van Doren concerning COD involvement in Riverside Neighborhood Conference 2007 on June 30, 2007.

Chairperson Van Doren noted that the booth for the COD was unprepared upon arrival at the Neighborhood Conference, even though the Commission's attendance was registered in advance. Eventually the booth was set up and from that point the Conference went very well and was a positive event.

The COD requested a banner be produced for occasions when a booth was needed in order to publicize the COD and their purpose.

Commissioner Garcia noted that the California Telephone Access Program (CTAP) attended the conference and would like to present their program to the COD at the August 13, 2007 meeting. CTAP is a State program which provides free special phones to people of any age or income, living in California and having difficulty seeing, moving, hearing, speaking, or remembering.

B. **Report** from Terry Gregersen concerning site visits to local Commissions on Disability

Terry Gregersen has relocated outside of the City of Riverside and will not be available to complete this assignment. Chairperson VanDoren volunteered to visit the City of Los Angeles' Commission on Disabilities and will report back to the Commission.

C. **Information** concerning recreational activities for the disabled (Donald Hawecker).

Commissioner Hawecker reported that a local church requested information about appropriate picnic recreational activities for wheelchair users. The local church is reaching out to the disabled community and their picnic will be open to the public.

D. **Update** COD Public Services Announcement.

The PSA has been submitted for review by the City's Public Information Officer. After approval, the PSA will scroll on Channel 3. The COD requested individual CDs containing the finished Public Service Announcement.

E. **Meeting** of the Joint Commission Task Force concerning Universally Accessible Playgrounds.

Commissioners Keller and Lesley will participate on this task force.

Commissioner Hawecker noted that on August 18, 2007, there will be an open house at Nicols Park. Of interest is accessibility for the park and potential program for disabled children. When asked how many disabled there were in this neighborhood, it was decided that this item will be tabled for discussion at a later date.

8. Items for future Commission Consideration

This is an opportunity for Commissioners to reference any items that arise during the meeting but are not a part of the meeting agenda.

A. Good Neighbor Award – Riverside Neighborhood Partnership

Commissioner Robinson was concerned that the disabled community is not being adequately included in the Neighborhood Partnership program. She noted that attention should be paid to the good things disabled people are doing in Riverside neighborhoods. The COD needs to let the community know that the disabled are active in their communities.

Commissioner Stream noted that the 3rd week in April 2007 was Crime Victims Awareness week in Riverside County. He noted that there are crime victims with disabilities and this segment of the population should be included in the ceremony next year. He noted that the District Attorney is open to including the disabled. How can the COD participate?

B. **Discussion:** Hotel/Motel Disabled Access competition and rating system. (suggested by Margaret Johnson)

This item was not discussed.

C. Commissioner Garcia noted that she had contact with the Highway Patrol and noted her concern about the way she was treated. She had questions about the types of training Highway Patrol officers received concerning interaction with the disabled.

The COD discussed various aspects of Highway Patrol and Riverside Police Department training. Commissioner Stream suggested that the COD take a consultative approach and advise the RPD that the COD is here to help come up with solutions to potential issues.

After discussion, the COD resolved to develop specific questions for RPD Captain Mark Boyer, Support Operations and Communications

In response to a question from Mr. Lonberg concerning why there was a directive not to write parking citations for people blocking sidewalks, Deputy City Attorney Okazaki advised that he would research this issue and report back to the COD. In response to a comment from Mr. Lonberg stating that he had email substantiating the City directive not to write citations concerning sidewalk obstructions, this information should be forwarded to Deputy City Attorney Okazaki so that he can investigate the issue.

In response to questions from the COD concerning the issue of garbage cans that obstruct disabled access to sidewalks, Deputy City Attorney Okazaki noted that complaints concerning mobility issues are to be acted upon. This item will be agenized for further discussion.

9. **Adjournment:** 7:45 pm

These minutes were approved at the August 13, 2007 COD meeting. There are no audio or video recordings of this meeting available.